

Oakdale Police News Release



For Immediate Release

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Tampered Halloween Candy Incident Determined a Hoax



NEWS RELEASE

Oakdale Police Department

Media Relations

Office of the Chief of Police

245 North Second Avenue, Oakdale, CA 95361

Oakdale, CA – Investigation and evidence of Halloween Candy leads back to reporting citizen, determined to be a hoax.

The Oakdale Police Department has continued to dedicate resources to investigate last year's report of tampered candy discovered on Halloween, October 31, 2018. Mathew Blackcloud, 32 years old, of Oakdale, reported finding small metal objects inside several items of commercially packaged chocolate candies that his children reportedly received while trick or treating in the Burchell Hill neighborhood. At the time of Blackcloud's report, there were no other similar reported incidents. The event caused significant concern throughout the community. During the course of the investigation, over the past several months, Blackcloud consistently told detectives that he did not know how the candy had become tampered.

Detectives continued to follow the evidence with various forensic examinations, including DNA processing, and it ultimately led them back to Blackcloud. The investigation indicated Blackcloud placed the metal objects inside the candy he turned over to police the night of the report.

"We have determined this report of metal in candy was a hoax perpetrated by Mr. Blackcloud," said Police Chief Scott Heller, "I want to thank the tenacious efforts of our investigators and our local and federal partners, along with the Serological Research Institute Forensic Lab, for their assistance in bringing closure to this case. Likewise, we want to thank our community for the generous donations and support during Operation Halloween 2.0 ensuring our kids didn't get robbed of their trick or treating experience as a result of this hoax."

Following the candy scare on Halloween where many threw away collected candy, Oakdale Police and the community partnered and provided free certified candy replacement treats at the police department.

Matthew Blackcloud was arrested for 347(b) PC –False Report of Food Tampering.

